

*REMARKS/ARGUMENTS*

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Withdrawn claims 10-13 have been canceled with the right reserved to pursue these claims by divisional application. The allowability of claim 7 is acknowledged. Claims 8 and 9 have been amended to remove multiple dependency.

The Examiner's rejection of claims 1-6, 8, 9 is based on what the Examiner construes to be "Applicants Admitted Prior Art." The Examiner, however, has not accurately read page 5, lines 1-3 of the specification. That portion of the specification DOES NOT state that it is known to cover a connection area formed on a tube with a heat shrinkable sleeve made of electrically conductive plastic or plastic made conductive by adhesives. The statement on page 5, lines 1-3 merely states that it is well known to make plastic conductive by additives. Indeed the sentence expressly states that the arrangement described is an embodiment of the invention according to Figure 2.

The only known prior arrangement is described at page 1, lines 14-17. There it states that the state of the art from which the invention proceeds is a tube with an area of the outer plastic layer or covering removed which is connected directly to the motor vehicle.

None of the prior art patent publications relied on by the Examiner, namely patent 5,940,952 and FR 2817953 A1 teach application of a conductive covering section that covers the area of connection or more than covers the area of connection.

Most importantly, neither teaches use of a conductive cover layer.

Moreover, the independent claim is to a method of making a tube. It does not claim a method for joining two adjacent tubes.

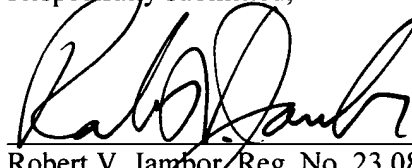
Claim 2 has been amended to further emphasize two important aspects of the invention not found in the prior art. First this claim recites that the removal of the plastic layer does not occur at the end of the tube but rather along its length. This is completely different than the joint connection of patent 5,940,952 that connects two adjacent tubes. Moreover, the claim emphasizes that the conductive covering overlies the plastic layer on

both ends of the area of connection, thus focusing on the application of the conductive cover on an area of connection which more than covers the area of connection. No arrangement is disclosed in the cited prior art where a conductive cover layer is provided on an area of connection on a single tube which covers or more than covers the area of connection.

Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

A petition for a one month extension, with fee accompanies this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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